

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all previous versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast in a subject comprising treating a sample of breast fluid from the subject with an aldehyde detecting reagent without any prewashing wherein the sample is suspected of containing an aldehyde marker associated with breast cancer the detection of a change produced by the aldehyde detecting reagent compared to a control is indicative of the presence of the aldehyde marker in the sample which is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer.
2. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 comprising the following steps:
 - a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
 - b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
 - c) treating the sample with an aldehyde detecting reagent without any prewashing;
 - d) detecting a colorimetric change produced in the sample, where detection of a colorimetric change compared to a control is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.
3. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 for detecting a neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast in a subject, which method comprises:
 - a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
 - b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
 - c) treating the sample on the support with a Schiff's reagent without any prewashing; and

- d) detecting a colorimetric change resulting from the reaction of the sample and Schiff's reagent wherein a colorimetric change is indicative of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method comprises:

- (a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from the nipple of one or both non-lactating breasts of a subject;
- (b) depositing the collected sample on a solid water-insoluble support;
- (c) treating the sample on the support with a Schiff's reagent without any prewashing;
- (d) washing the sample; and
- (e) screening for neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast by persistent purple coloration produced in the sample.

6. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 5 wherein the breast fluid is breast discharge, ductal secretion, or nipple aspirate fluid.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 2 wherein the sample ~~containing~~ contains an aldehyde marker associated with breast cancer, wherein the colorimetric change is indicative of ~~comprising in step d)~~ detecting the presence of the aldehyde marker in the sample.

8. (ORIGINAL) A method of claim 7 wherein the aldehyde marker is capable of reacting with a Schiff's reagent to produce a colorimetric change.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the aldehyde marker comprises low molecular weight aldehydes that are soluble in water.

10-11. (CANCELLED)

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from the breast of a subject; treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent; and, detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast based upon the coloration produced in the sample by the treatment.

13. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the coloration is distinguished from other colorations.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the breast fluid is nipple discharge, ductal secretion, nipple aspirate or nipple aspirate fluid.

15-16. (CANCELLED).

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the sample is adsorbed on a water-insoluble substrate.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the water-insoluble substrate is made from polyester fibre or glass fibre fabrics.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the sample is additionally screened for the presence of other markers that are indicators of breast cancer.

20-22. (CANCELLED)

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A kit for carrying out a method of claim 12.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists

essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject; directly treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent and, detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast based upon the coloration produced in the sample by the treatment.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim 1 for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject; treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent without a step of adding an enzyme to modify the cancer marker to enable detection by the Schiff's reagent and detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 1 ~~wherein the enzyme is for detecting the presence of neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast, which method consists essentially of obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject; treating the sample with a Schiff's reagent without a step of adding galactose oxidase and optionally catalase~~ and detecting neoplasia, a precancerous condition, or cancer of the breast.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

- a) obtaining a sample of breast fluid from a subject;
- b) depositing the sample on a solid support;
- c) treating the sample with a step consisting essentially of adding a Schiff's reagent; and
- e) detecting a colorimetric change resulting from the reaction of aldehyde markers on the sample and Schiff's reagent wherein a colorimetric change is indicative of neoplasia, precancer or cancer of the breast.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of claim 7 wherein the aldehyde marker comprises aldehydes derived from plasmalogens.